Group I, Claims 1-124, drawn to an endoscope, classified in class 600,

subclass 107;

Group II, Claim 125, drawn to endoscope, classified in class 600, subclass 104;

Group III, Claims 126-130, drawn to an endoscope, classified in class 600,

subclass 154;

Group IV, Claim 131, drawn to an endoscope auxiliary instrument attachment

member, classified in class 600, subclass 102; and

Group V, Claims 132-135, drawn to methods for endoscopically performing

diagnosis, classified in class 600, subclass 106.

It is the Examiner's position that the inventions listed as Groups I, II, III, IV

and V are distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants elect to

prosecute the subject matter of Group I, Claims 1-124. However, Applicants reserve the right

under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected

subject matter in this application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at

an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Spinelli

Registration No.: 39,533

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser 400 Garden City Plaza Garden City, New York 11530

(516) 742-4343

TS:cm